

Jay “Jimmy” Patel, Secretary Bharat “Bruce” Patel and President Fred Schwartz, along with AAHOA’s 24 past chairman whose dedication to the organization and the hospitality industry have helped to create jobs, promote investment in their local communities, and grow America’s economy.

I look forward to addressing AAHOA’s annual convention later this month and continuing to work with this extraordinary organization in the future.

WATER RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3189) to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer, relinquishment, or other impairment of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, with Ms. FOXX in the chair.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3189, a contradictory piece of legislation that would confuse the issue of water rights across the country.

As initially written, this bill, which attempts to solve a dispute between Colorado ski resorts and the U.S. Forest Service, was so broad that it would have impacted the permitting process for the Conowingo dam in Maryland and our local efforts to restore threatened species in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. While I appreciate that the Manager’s amendment narrowly addresses the issue of dam permitting, I remain concerned that contradictory sections in this bill will create confusion and litigation that will prevent agencies from ensuring proper stewardship of federal lands.

When private entities request permits to operate on public lands, federal agencies have a responsibility to taxpayers to ensure that their operations would not harm the resources on those lands. If agencies cannot guarantee protections, they may simply deny permits and prohibit private use. This bill, by attempting to rewrite years of water rights law in a few short pages, introduces so much uncertainty into the process that those denials are likely to become a common occurrence.

Congressman POLIS has offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute that would restore the narrow focus on the disputed ski resort water rights. I urge my colleagues to support his effort and oppose the bill as currently written.

SGR REPEAL AND MEDICARE PROVIDER PAYMENT MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to oppose H.R. 4015, the SGR

Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act.

For years, I have worked with my colleagues, hospitals, and doctors to temporarily repair a permanent problem. We have continued placing a Band-Aid on a gunshot wound. The Band-Aid doesn’t work anymore. We need some serious treatment for this SGR wound. However, the suture we need is not H.R. 4015.

This bill is just another attempt by Republicans to undermine the law that is the Affordable Care Act. Their weak attempt at yet another delay of ACA’s individual mandate will not be accepted by the American people. Millions of Americans are benefiting from ACA. They now have access to free preventative care; they are now no longer denial coverage due to preexisting conditions; and parents can now keep their children on their healthcare plan until age 26.

It is important to recognize that the bill, in its original form, stood as a bipartisan agreement. It was a permanent fix to the SGR problem. To have physicians paid based on merit, using a metric system to access doctors on the quality of care given not the quantity of patients seen, served to benefit the medical community and the patients in their care.

However, the Republicans have poisoned this bipartisan agreement making it impossible for me to vote “yes” on H.R. 4015. Specifically, they are delaying ACA’s individual mandate for five years by changing the penalty for failing to purchase health insurance to zero (0) until 2019.

There is no argument that a SGR permanent fix is necessary. However, it should not, and will not, be at the expense of hard-working Americans who now have access to health care that they may not have had before the Affordable Care Act.

It is imperative that we continue to work in a bipartisan way to seek a solution to the SGR problem, because H.R. 4015—in its current form—is not the solution.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting “no” on this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Tuesday, March 10, 2014.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote 115, “yea” on rollcall vote 116, and “yea” on rollcall vote 117.

Due to a last minute meeting at the White House with President Obama on Thursday, March 13, 2014, to discuss the devastating impact of deportations on the immigrant community, I was absent for the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote 130, “yea” on rollcall vote 131, “nay” on rollcall vote 132, and “nay” on rollcall vote 133.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL SANGER

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael Sanger and thank him both for his service to our country in the United States Army and the Massachusetts National Guard, as well as for his dedication to the constituents of the Sixth District of Massachusetts.

Michael joined my office in 2012 as part of the Wounded Warrior Congressional Fellowship Program. This program provides opportunities for veterans who served on active duty since September 11, 2001. Veterans are accepted into the program to broaden their career opportunities through experience working in a congressional office.

Prior to joining my office, Michael served as an infantryman in the United States Army. He served in Iraq for 15 months with the 725th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, and his career in the Army has spanned over ten years.

While Michael fulfilled his Fellowship, he also served as an Explosives Ordnance Technician in the Massachusetts National Guard. It was in this capacity that Michael was called upon by the Boston Police Department and the F.B.I. to assist in the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombings last year.

Michael put the skills and experience he developed in the Army to use as a Veterans Caseworker for my district office. In this capacity, Michael helped ensure that local veterans were able to obtain the benefits which they earned, and that veterans’ inquiries were effectively addressed. Michael has been a true asset in these efforts, bringing key insight and perspective to his work.

As Michael embarks on his next endeavor, I congratulate him on his achievements and thank him for his outstanding service.

HONORING MRS. ROSALYN FABIANKE, PROJECT DIRECTOR FOR THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION’S MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET EXHIBIT “THE WAY WE WORKED”

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay a special honor to Mrs. Rosalyn Fabianke, of Red Bay, Alabama, as the project director for the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum on Main Street exhibit entitled, “The Way We Worked.” It was held in Red Bay from September 14–October 25, 2013. Mrs. Fabianke deserves to be recognized for her unselfish dedication to this project. She is truly one who embodies the American spirit of community.

Each year the Smithsonian Institution partners with Museum on Main Street and chooses six cities to host a traveling exhibit. This year, Red Bay was chosen as the inaugural city to display the exhibit, “The Way We Worked,” documenting how industry has